

**The HOT SPRINGS of ARKANSAS THROUGH THE YEARS:  
A CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS**

**-Excerpts-**

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## **PREFACE: ABOUT THIS CHRONOLOGY**

*Researchers coming to the Hot Springs National Park museum collections are usually consulting its cataloged documentary collections of approximately 300,000 items. The collections includes thousands of letters, hundreds of reports, some 3000 maps and drawings, scores of brochures and booklets, and over 5000 photographic images, with many more still waiting to be cataloged. When objects are cataloged, their manufacture and use dates are included in the records whenever possible. Unfortunately, many documents are undated. This chronology was primarily written to help cataloguers assign dates to these items by searching for events or objects mentioned in them for which dates have been established. When it became apparent that researchers and visitors were interested in the chronology as well, park personnel decided to print copies for sale in the park bookstore, and this publication was the final result. It will be updated from time to time as new information is discovered, and suggestions for its improvement are always welcome.*

## BRIEF SUMMARY OF PARK HISTORY

The area now known as "Hot Springs National Park" first became United States territory in 1803 as part of the Louisiana Purchase. The first permanent settlers to reach the Hot Springs area in 1807 were quick to realize the area's potential as a health resort. By the 1830s, log cabins and a store had been built to meet the needs (albeit in a rudimentary way) of visitors to the springs.

To protect this unique national resource and preserve it for the use of the public, the Arkansas Territorial Legislature requested in 1820 that the springs and adjoining mountains be set aside as a federal reservation (not to be confused with the Indian reservations being established around the same time). On April 20, 1832, President Andrew Jackson signed legislation to set aside "...four sections of land including said (hot) springs, reserved for the future disposal of the United States (which) shall not be entered, located, or appropriated, for any other purpose whatsoever." This makes Hot Springs National Park the oldest national park among current N. P. S. parks, predating Yellowstone National Park by forty years. Unfortunately, Congress failed to pass any legislation for administering the site. As a result, no controls were exerted in the area, and people continued to settle there, building businesses around and even over the springs.

By the mid-1800s, the springs were being claimed by several private citizens, and the government was forced to reestablish its jurisdiction over the area. Upon the establishment of the Department of the Interior in 1849, the reservation (as a property administered under the General Land Survey) was placed under that department's control. Eventually the conflicting claims led to a series of lawsuits, and in 1877 the

court ruled against the all the would-be private owners, reestablishing government control over the area. The Hot Springs Commission was authorized to reconfirm the boundaries of the reservation. In the same year a superintendent was appointed. Surveys were made, remaining claims were settled, and finally the springs and the mountains around them were permanently set aside as Hot Springs Reservation.

After Hot Springs Reservation was reestablished as government property, the area rapidly changed from a rough frontier town to an elegant spa city, with building, landscaping, and engineering projects proceeding apace. In 1884 the government enclosed Hot Springs creek in an underground arch for flood and sewerage control, landscaping the area above it to create a pleasing, tree-lined park. Although bathhouses remained an integral feature of the spring area, they were now regulated by the superintendent of the Reservation. Each new generation of buildings was larger and more luxurious than the previous one. Roads and paths were improved for the convenience of visitors who wished to enjoy the scenery.

After an unsuccessful attempt to obtain Frederick Law Olmsted's personal landscaping services, the government authorized one U. S. Army Captain John R. Stevens to oversee a number of ambitious landscaping and building projects in the 1890s. These included a grand entrance, mountain drives, a lake park on Whittington Avenue, fountains, and a brick bathhouse for the indigent. By 1901 all of the springs had been walled up and covered to protect them. Between 1912 and 1922 the wooden Victorian bathhouses built in the 1880s were replaced by fire-resistant brick and stucco bathhouses, several of which featured marble walls, billiard rooms, gymnasiums, and stained glass windows.

On August 25, 1916, Congress established the National Park Service (39 Stat. 535), and Hot Springs Reservation came under its administration. Stephen T. Mather,

head of the new organization, took a serious interest in the development of the site. His enthusiasm for Hot Springs apparently led to its designation as the eighteenth national park on March 4, 1921 (41 Stat. 1407). At the same time, the townspeople decided to call their city Hot Springs National Park as well.

The designation of the reservation as a national park ushered in the final phase of construction culminating in the Bathhouse Row of today. In 1922 the old Government Free Bathhouse was demolished, and a new state-of-the-art bathhouse opened on Reserve and Spring Streets. In 1933 grading began on the Grand Promenade behind Bathhouse Row. In 1936 the new administration building on the corner of Reserve and Central opened, replacing the former park headquarters earlier converted from the reservation's pump house. The Imperial Bathhouse next to the administration building was razed in 1937 to make way for the Grand Promenade entrance on Reserve, although it was to be 1958 before this ambitious project was completely finished.

By the 1960s the bathing industry in the park and in the city had declined considerably. On Bathhouse Row, the eight grand bathhouses that had been thriving since their construction in the first three decades of the century were of course affected by the decline. The elegant Fordyce Bathhouse was the first to close, in 1962, followed by the Maurice, the Ozark, and the Hale in the 1970s. In 1984 the Quapaw (briefly reincarnated as Health Services, Inc.) and the Superior closed; the Lamar closed in 1985, leaving the Buckstaff as the only bathhouse still operating on Bathhouse Row.

Bathhouse Row and its environs were placed on the National Register of Historic Places on November 13, 1974. The desire to revitalize Bathhouse Row also led citizens to campaign for adaptive uses of the vacant buildings. The strongest concern was to save the most elegant bathhouse, the Fordyce, which was consequently adapted for use as a visitor center and museum. Today, nearly all the empty bathhouses are under consideration for adaptive renovation.

**Note: Each year indicated covers January through December of that year unless prefaced with "FY," which indicates a fiscal year running from July through June. For instance, "1905" would cover January 1905 through December 1905. "FY1905" would cover July 1904 through June 1905.**

# **CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS**

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## **HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK HISTORY**

### **1803**

The hot springs formally became the property of the United States when the Treaty of Paris of 30 April conveyed ownership of lands in the Louisiana Territory to the U.S.<sup>1</sup>  
1902p.6

### **1804**

Dr. George Hunter and William Dunbar were the first government officials to visit the hot springs. Their expedition was commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson to survey the newly acquired territory and make scientific observations. The party arrived at the hot springs on December 9, where they found "an Open Log-Cabin and a few huts of split boards...for summer encampment...erected by persons resorting to the Springs for the recovery of their health..."<sup>2 p.272</sup>

Hunter and Dunbar visited all of the springs on the 10th and measured the temperatures of the four principal springs on the 12th.<sup>2p.275</sup> A series of winter storms kept the expedition in the area for several days. Some of the party passed the time by hunting buffalo.<sup>2p.284</sup> Hunter and Dunbar made further chemical tests of the water and gathered other scientific data before leaving the springs on the 29th.<sup>2p.297</sup>

### **1807**

Manuel Prudhomme built a cabin at the hot springs; John Perciful and Isaac Cates joined him that year.<sup>1 1901p.7</sup>

### **1808-9**

John Perciful began occupying the land around the hot springs, but since at this time it was considered by the United States to be the property of the Quapaw Indians, he had no legal claim to the land.<sup>3</sup>

### **1815**

An Act of Congress was passed on February 17<sup>th</sup> giving land owners affected by the 1811-12 New Madrid earthquake in Missouri the right to claim compensatory public lands "the sale of which [was] authorized by law" elsewhere in the Missouri Territory.<sup>4 p.8</sup>

### **1818**

The Quapaw Indians ceded the land around the hot springs to the United States in an August 24<sup>th</sup> treaty.<sup>4 p.111</sup>

**NOV** On the 6th Langlois was awarded certificate number 467 by the Office of the Recorder of Land Titles entitling him to the land around the hot springs in Arkansas as compensation for land he lost in the New Madrid quake. On the 10<sup>th</sup> Francis Langlois gave Joseph Story power of attorney to locate his New Madrid claim.<sup>4 p.8</sup>

## 1819

Arkansas Territory was organized. Around 14,000 people lived here then. [*Territorial Papers For Arkansas and Louisiana-Missouri Territories*, [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com): "This information was sent to me by NARA in response to my query: Documents listed under control number NWL-233-HTP, House of Representatives Territorial Papers Collection, may be referenced via the following archival unit: Center for Legislative Archives (NWL), National Archives Building, Room 8E, 7th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20408]"

## 1820

The land claimed on certificate 467 was surveyed for Francis Langlois and documented as survey number 2903 by a James J. or L. Conway (probably the Surveyor of Public Lands) on July 16th,<sup>5</sup> but it was never recorded, and the tract was not deeded to Langlois.<sup>3</sup> The Territorial Assembly of Arkansas approved a petition to the U. S. Congress asking that "Sections be granted to the local Legislature, to include all the Hot Springs for the benefit of that watering place...as may be directed by the general assembly of Arkansas—The land about the Hot Springs is extrem[e]ly poor and worth very little for farming purposes..."<sup>6</sup>

## 1828

Ludovicus Belding occupied the hot spring environs as a tenant of Perciful and, under the pre-emption act of May 29, 1830, established a land claim. But because this act did not apply until July 1832 and the reservation was set aside in April 1832, the Belding claim was invalid.<sup>3</sup> Belding opened a hotel advertised in the July 1<sup>st</sup> Arkansas Gazette.<sup>7</sup>  
p.28

## 1832

A memorial of the General Assembly of the Territory of Arkansas asked the House of Representatives of the United States to appropriate \$5000 for a hospital to be built, \$500 per year to maintain it, and an additional \$700 per year to pay a physician presumably to oversee it.<sup>8</sup> The hot springs and their environs (2,529.1 acres) were set aside as a United States government reservation on April 20.<sup>1 1901pp.8-9</sup> G.W. Featherstonhaugh visited the Hot Springs in late November or early December, stating in the published account of his travels that "four wretched-looking log cabins, in one of which was a small store, contained all the accommodation that these springs offered to travelers." The store was owned by Hiram Whittington,<sup>9p.106</sup> and Featherstonhaugh stayed in the cabin of John Percival (Perciful).<sup>9 p.109</sup> While at the hot springs, he observed a nearly total solar eclipse.<sup>9 p.112</sup>

## 1834

German botanist and physician George Engelmann visited the hot springs in the fall, writing a narrative describing the geology, inhabitants, lifestyle, dwellings, and natural history of the area, identifying a number of plants.<sup>10 p..225-248</sup>

## 1836



Hiram Whittington opened a hotel that operated until 1849.<sup>7 p.29</sup>

#### **1844**

Alfred Whittington moved to Hot Springs.<sup>11 p. 70</sup>

#### **1849**

The Department of the Interior was established.<sup>12 March 1849</sup>

**1854** The first Hale Bathhouse was built.<sup>7 p.40</sup>

William H. Gaines moved to Hot Springs.<sup>11 p. 200</sup>

**1859-1860** David Dale Owen made a geological reconnaissance through middle and southern Arkansas and conducted an analysis of thermal springs in Hot Springs.<sup>3 p.14</sup>

#### **1862**

For a brief period (May 6 to July 14) Hot Springs was the Arkansas State Capital when Governor Rector moved his staff and the state records there because of a rumor that Federal troops were about to march on Little Rock.<sup>7 p.47</sup>

#### **November 1864**

According to Dr. Lawrence, the city of Hot Springs was "burned out" during the American Civil War.<sup>11 p. 65</sup> This is corroborated in the letters of Mrs. Lydia Bassett Belding, who wrote to her son Henry on December 17, 1864, that "About a month since the Houses in the Valley were set on fire and the Rector Hale and Clayton Houses were burned it is supposed to be done by the Mountain Feds. Dick Warrens House did not burn all the rest on that side of the street are burned as far down as the Old Kuykendall Houses."

#### **1871**

A street railway was built from the Diamond Jo depot through Hot Springs valley; horse-drawn coaches served travelers going to and from the baths.<sup>7 p.61</sup>

#### **1872-73**

The "old Hot Springs House" burned.<sup>11 p. 131</sup> This was probably the forerunner of the New Hot Springs Bathhouse, which occupied the northeast corner at Fountain Street and Central Avenue, the current site of the Arlington Hotel. This building should not be confused with the Hot Springs Hotel at the south end of Bathhouse Row, which burned in 1878.

#### **1874**

Dr. Arthur K. Taylor came to Hot Springs and set up an office in a house adjoining the Hot Springs Hotel; the rear portion of the house was built over Hot Springs Creek (as were many others) so that it could carry the sewage away.<sup>11 pp. 49-50</sup>

Construction of the first Arlington Hotel began in October.<sup>103 entry 4</sup>

#### **1875**

According to *Morrison's Handbook of the Hot Springs of Arkansas* published by J. M. Morrison in 1875, Bathhouse Row at this time included five bathhouses: the Rector, the Old Hale, a bathhouse (probably the New Central Bath House owned by Dr. J. O. Fox<sup>104 p23 map</sup>) on the site of the Palace and later of the Fordyce, the Weir and George, and the Huffman and Hamilton. A. B. Gaines reported that the latter stood "about where the Army and Navy Hospital [bathhouse] site" was to be located.<sup>11 p.205</sup>

The Arlington Hotel, which cost \$52,000 to build (although it incorporated the Rector House), opened on April 15. Its dimensions were 132' x 186', roughly.<sup>103 entry 4</sup>

A narrow-gauge railroad line from Malvern to Hot Springs known as the "Diamond Jo Line" was completed by Jo Reynolds.<sup>7 p.56</sup>

Suits were brought in the Court of Claims by several claimants; the cases were consolidated and tried together<sup>3 p.23</sup>: John C. Hale claimed title to springs on the basis of John Perciful's supposed right of pre-emption. Henry M. Rector claimed title based on Langlois's New Madrid certificate. William H. Gaines et al and John H. Russell claimed title based on Belding's pre-emption claim.<sup>3 p.23</sup>

## 1875

The Court of Claims decided against all the claimants, and the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed their decree in October.<sup>1a</sup>

## 1877

The Hot Springs Commission was authorized by a March 3 Act of Congress to survey Hot Springs Reservation and settle the remaining land claims of private citizens;<sup>3 p.25</sup> it eventually set aside 264.93 acres around the springs as a permanent reservation.<sup>1 1901p.9</sup>

In October Benjamin Kelley was appointed the first superintendent of Hot Springs Reservation.

The Secretary of the Interior ordered the removal of the wooden shanties over the "Dugout pools" (Ral Hole, Corn Hole<sup>IV</sup>, and Mud Hole). Kelley carried out this order in October as his first official duty,<sup>1 1878 p.1</sup> but a mob confronted him the next day and threatened to hang him, then hauled lumber to the pools and rebuilt the shanties. When the U.S. Marshal was unable to stop the construction, Kelley sent for federal troops. On October 8 Company E of the 13th Infantry arrived to protect U.S. property and keep the peace. The disorder subsided at once, but in December more troops were brought in, and the troops remained until June 1880.<sup>16 pp.169-70</sup>

Kelley established regulations for bathing at the springs.<sup>3 p.26</sup> He moved Ral City away from the springs to a site on the south side of Hot Springs Mountain after closing Ral Hole for bathing. Guests and local citizens collected money to erect a wooden bathhouse in the new Ral City (renamed Kelleytown)<sup>III</sup>. However, the indigent continued

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<sup>IV</sup> Corn Hole was an excavated spring with a pool about ten feet square situated behind the site of the current Maurice Bathhouse. Reportedly a chiropodist had the wooden seats built around it so that men in the morning and women in the afternoon could soak their feet; he removed their corns for twenty-five cents each.

<sup>III</sup> Kelleytown was about a quarter mile beyond the site of the medical director's residence on Reserve Street; later, it was "said to harbor the class of patients who frequent the cheap bachelor apartments at about \$1 a week."<sup>11 D34.1902-1933.5</sup>

to use the Ral Hole sites<sup>16 p.160</sup> In 1882 the bathhouse at Kelleytown was called "the Hospital Bath House" and was "used by poor visitors and citizens, principally colored. When Gen. Kelley first broke up the 'Ral Hole,' all this class of visitors bathed there."<sup>17 p.46</sup>

A flood damaged walls along Bathhouse Row.<sup>11 p. 71</sup>

**c1878**

The first superintendent's office was built, a two-story frame building with four rooms and some sheds; it was described as "dilapidated, scarcely habitable" in 1890.<sup>7 p.20</sup>

**1878**

A disastrous Hot Springs fire occurred on the fifth of March<sup>11 p.40</sup>, destroying many buildings (including the Hot Springs Hotel, American Hotel, the Baptist Church located near the current site of the Ozark Bathhouse, the Weir and George Bathhouse, the Huffman and Hamilton Bathhouse connected with the Hot Springs Hotel, the city jail, and the French Restaurant) but leaving the Arlington, Sumpter, Grand Central, Avenue, Rockafellow, and Hale untouched.<sup>7 p.66</sup> A bathhouse on the present Fordyce site that Samuel W. Fordyce had an interest in was also among those that burned.<sup>11 p. 191</sup> This was possibly Central Bathhouse, which was apparently fairly new in 1878. It is included in the 1877 survey notebook plats

James L. Barns, deputy U.S. Marshall, took charge of the Mud Hole and apparently owned the lease for the site.<sup>11 p. 45, 48</sup> A bathhouse was erected for indigent bathing.

**c1878-9** The Maurice-Palace Bathhouse was built by D. W. Hashal.<sup>11 p. 139</sup> on the west side of Hot Springs Creek. Financed by Charles Maurice, Samuel W. Fordyce, and George G. Latta, it was used as a bathhouse until the Palace Bathhouse was completed in 1880. It later became the Monarch Saloon and Gambling House operated by Jim Lane and Frank Flynn).<sup>14</sup>

**1879**

In September and October, Supt. Benjamin F. Kelley hired laborers to build a carriage road from Reserve Street to the observatory on top of Hot Springs Mountain for \$356.59.<sup>1 FY1880, 102</sup>

**1880s**

Norman McLeod established his Happy Hollow photography and amusement complex.<sup>19</sup>

**1880**

Dr. J. Adams constructed a building intended to be used as a hospital but actually used as a hotel. In 1888 it was taken over as an infirmary by the Sisters of Mercy<sup>7p.226</sup> and became St. Joseph's Infirmary.

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An act of Congress on June 16th reserved from sale the mountainous district of Hot Springs Reservation--North, West, Sugar Loaf and Hot Springs Mountains--dedicating them to public use as parks and naming them as the "Permanent Reservation." The acquisition increased the reservation's size to 900.63 acres.<sup>1 1901p.9</sup>

The arched brick reservoir near Big Iron Spring was completed late in the year.<sup>20 p.111</sup> This reservoir is still in situ behind Superior Bathhouse.

The Palace Bathhouse was completed;<sup>16 p.200</sup> the original lease was signed 26JAN1881 and ran from 16 December 1878 to 15 December 1883.<sup>7</sup> Col. Samuel W. Fordyce, who built the Palace, brought its tubs from Scotland; they were of a type in use in Europe at the time but not in the U.S.;<sup>11 p.192</sup> they were molded porcelain and cost more than the zinc tubs also in use on Bathhouse Row.<sup>11 p. 140-41</sup>

### 1881

A second reservoir above the old Arlington Hotel (now Arlington Lawn) was built.<sup>20 p.111</sup>

### 1882

Corn Hole spring dried up<sup>20 p.47</sup> (probably due to blasting in the area<sup>11 p.47</sup>); other open springs were covered to prevent them from becoming polluted.<sup>20 p.47</sup>

An act was passed establishing an Army and Navy General Hospital; it was offered as an amendment by Gen. John A. Logan, a U. S. senator from Illinois who had benefited from the springs.<sup>16 p.280</sup>

### 1883

The government began setting bathhouse rates on May 3.<sup>16 p.201</sup>

Mountain Valley Water Company office was established at 195 Central, with the manager selling stationery and tobacco as well as operating the company.<sup>21</sup>

**1884** Originally under the direction of Capt. Thomas H. Handbury, U.S. Engineer Office, Little Rock, the project to build a creek arch over Hot Springs creek was completed under the supervision of Supt. Hamblen.<sup>16 p.188</sup> The arch ran from Whittington to Malvern Avenues, spanning 3,500 feet.<sup>1 1910p.9</sup>

A U.S. House of Representatives hearing into the creek arch project was held in Hot Springs by a committee of three Congressmen in March and completed in Washington D.C. in June; the transcribed notes were ordered to be printed on the 17th of June.<sup>11</sup>

At this time, Bathhouse Row was made up of these rent-paying bathhouses, running north to south: the Little Rockafellow ("a few tubs under the Arlington Hotel...which pays rents...[but] is not in use"); Big Iron Bathhouse; Old Hale Bathhouse; Independent Bathhouse; Palace Bathhouse; Ozark Bathhouse, and Rammelsberg Bathhouse (also known as the "brick bathhouse").<sup>11 p. 84</sup> Bathhouses off the Reservation, running from south to north on both sides of Central Avenue north of the Fountain Street intersection, were the Old Hot Springs Bathhouse, the Grand Central Hotel and Bathhouse, the Rockafellow bathhouse, and the Avenue Hotel. The French Hotel (LOCATION?) paid water rent but was not in operation.<sup>11 p. 85</sup> A new wooden free bathhouse had also been constructed at the site of the old Mud Hole.<sup>11 pp.58-59</sup>

According to Supt. Hamblen, around 3.5 miles of roads and drives had been completed on Hot Springs and North Mountains.<sup>1 1884 p.4</sup>

**FY1884** Alum Spring (the only thermal spring issuing from the west side of Hot Springs Creek) was captured with stone walls and made accessible with stone steps.<sup>1 1884p.4</sup>

The Reservation side of the creek arch was backfilled and a gravel walk laid over it.<sup>16 p.192-93</sup>

**FY1885** According to Supt. Field, Hot Springs Mountain had no paths for visitors to use, and the only road providing access to the apex of Hot Springs Mountain passed through the projected grounds of the Army-Navy Hospital. It therefore would have to be abandoned, necessitating the construction of a new road that bypassed that area.<sup>1 1885 p.5</sup>

**1885-86** In December of 1885 and January of 1886 a 60-foot section of the creek arch was torn down and rebuilt.<sup>1 1886p.1</sup>

### **1886**

W. P. Aldrich secured a contract to continue the creek arch and to lay cast-iron pipes for the collection and distribution of thermal water that flowed out too far below the bathhouses to be captured by them. Both projects were completed before the end of the fiscal year. At that time 1,000 feet of 12-inch cast iron pipe ran along the reservation front, with 3 to 4 inch lateral pipes connecting it with each formerly unused spring.<sup>1 1886p.3</sup>

A sewer pipe was laid in the creek arch to convey sewerage to a point a mile below the permanent reservation.<sup>1 1886p.3-4</sup>

**1887** The first Army-Navy Hospital opened.<sup>1 1887p.4</sup> The original complex of five buildings was designed by J. L. Smithmeyer.<sup>23 H4217-2</sup>

**1888** The first Lamar Bathhouse was built.<sup>18 p.13</sup> By 1912 (and probably earlier), this 2500 square-foot building boasted sun parlors, a complete gymnasium, electric massage treatments, and 100 private dressing rooms.<sup>18.5</sup>

The first Superior Bathhouse was completed around this date.<sup>18 p.8</sup>

The Horse Shoe Bathhouse was built in the spring.<sup>18 p.11</sup>

The Magnesia Bathhouse was built.<sup>18 p.22</sup> (See Fig. 1)

The Sisters of Mercy took over the Adams Hotel on Cedar Terrace and converted it into St. Joseph's Infirmary.<sup>18 p.226</sup>

**OCT** On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the month, \$31,000 was appropriated "for providing a system of reservoirs, pumps, and piping, and for other purposes necessary to the collection and economical distribution of the hot water." Surveys were completed before the end of FY1889.<sup>1 1889p.6</sup>

An act of October 19 granted the Mountain View Railway Co. of Hot Springs a right-of-way from Bathhouse Row easterly around Hot Springs and North Mountains and then over West Mountain; the railway was also given the right to operate casinos and observatories if a 3% fee of gross earnings were turned over to the government. This was never acted on, and the concession expired in 1891.<sup>16 p.291</sup>

Supt. Charles Field planted the "bath-house park" in lawn-grass, clover, and 300 or so young shade trees.<sup>1 1889p.6</sup>

## 1889

**JUL** Supt. Frank Thompson reported that "there is not a road or bridle way over and across" the four mountains in the permanent reservation, which suggests that the former road to the observatory had not been replaced at that time.<sup>1 1889p.4</sup>

Standard gauge rails replaced narrow gauge rails on Hot Springs rail lines, making direct routing to Hot Springs possible.<sup>20 p.83</sup>

## 1891

**FEB** The new brick Government Free Bathhouse was opened to the public on the 23rd;<sup>1 1891p.20</sup> it was enlarged in 1893, 1898, and 1900.<sup>1 1904p.17</sup> It had no individual tubs; people were bathed collectively in large sunken pools.<sup>1 1903p. 17</sup> (See Fig. 2)

**JUN** The impounding reservoir and pumping station were completed on the 8th;<sup>6 1893p.5</sup> however, a law approved March 3 required the water to be distributed solely by gravity flow, so they could not be put into use.<sup>1 1891p.20</sup> Supt. Thompson described an erosion problem behind the building caused by the necessity of excavating the side of the mountain.<sup>1 1891p.21</sup>

## 1892

The Fountain Street residence/office was turned over to the superintendent;<sup>1 1892p.5</sup> it was not "entirely finished" in 1893.<sup>1 1893p.5</sup>

Supt. Thompson hired the park's first policeman.<sup>16 p.290</sup>

Lt. Stevens wrote to Olmsted and Company requesting Frederick Law Olmsted's personal services in planning the improvements and describing the project.<sup>25</sup>

Andrews, Jaques & Rantoul sent sketches for the reservation entrance to Olmsted and Company; these were forwarded on to Lt. Stevens. The eagle entrance pylons were the only features designed by Olmsted and Company to be constructed at the reservation.<sup>25</sup> The eagles were created by Edward Kemeys.<sup>26 1893</sup>

**1892-93** The Independent Bathhouse was remodeled and renamed the Maurice Bathhouse.<sup>1 1892p.2, 1893p.6</sup>

**1893** The second Arlington Hotel opened March 25.<sup>1 1893p.6</sup>

The old Southern Club (now the Wax Museum, 250 Central) was built.<sup>24</sup>

The Imperial Bathhouse was completed.<sup>7 p.7</sup>

The New Hot Springs Bathhouse on Fountain Street was completed.<sup>1 1893p.9-10</sup>

[This is the site of the present Arlington Hotel.]

The lease on the new Hale Bathhouse was signed.<sup>23 C3823</sup>

An Act of December 21 granted right-of-way and five acres of land for observatories and hotels to the Mountain View Railroad; an inclined railroad bed was built up West Mountain behind the present site of Levi Hospital, but nothing else was built.<sup>16 p.292</sup>

**JAN** The Palace Bathhouse lease was assigned to Samuel W. Fordyce on the twelfth.<sup>23 C3823.1883-1914</sup>

**AUG** After many months of mutual misunderstandings and frustration, Lt. Stevens wrote to Olmsted and Company outlining his reasons for dissatisfaction with the firm and disputing the amount of its final requested payment.<sup>25</sup>

**1894** Architects Towbridge, Colt and Livingstone were paid \$20.00 from the Department of Interior allotment for the improvement of Hot Springs for their execution of three designs for a fountain, with working details for one design.<sup>23 D46</sup>

The Formal Entrance and Stevens Balustrade were under construction.<sup>26 1894</sup>

Magnolia trees were interspersed among the Lombardy poplars lining the sidewalk of Bathhouse Row.<sup>26</sup>

## 1894

The eagle pylons and balustrade for the formal entrance to Hot Springs Reservation were completed.<sup>1 1895 plate 1</sup> The exedra walls and the bandstand base were also completed.<sup>26 1895p.5</sup> The contract to build the shell fountain in the corbel of the Stevens Balustrade was awarded to W. L. Funston on November 12.<sup>23 D46:Other Structures: Pavilions: 1894-1937.2</sup> The exedra fountains (designed by architect James Riely Gordon of San Antonio<sup>26 1894 p.8</sup>) and the Noble Fountain (designed and executed by sculptor Edward Kemeys from an old Venetian composition<sup>26 1894 p.8</sup>) were completed but not yet erected.<sup>26 1895p.4</sup> (See Fig. 4)

Supt. Little hired the park's first night policeman.<sup>16 p.290</sup>

## 1896

Hale hot cave was advertised in Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1896 the ad did not indicate when the cave was excavated; probably it was in 1892 when the Hale was rebuilt).

Stevens's plans for Whittington Park were ordered on the 28<sup>th</sup> and approved 14 July.<sup>1 1897p.8</sup> (see Figure 7). The acquisition of the Whittington area increased the park's size to 911.63 acres.<sup>1 1901p.9</sup>

## 1898

The mountain road on North Mountain was completed, making a continuous six-mile drive around Hot Springs and North Mountains; the Fountain Street drive was also completed.<sup>1 1899p.19</sup> The drives entered the reservation at the Formal Entrance, through the grounds of the Army-Navy Hospital, and at Fountain Street.<sup>1 1898 p.12</sup>

On 22 March the second story of the Government Free Bathhouse was turned over to an Army doctor (H.O. Perley) for use as a free dispensary.<sup>1 1898p.8</sup>

The walks and paths on Hot Springs Mountain were reconstructed and stone steps added; locations included behind Hale Bathhouse, on the Arlington supply road leading to the Cave Spring, above the Stevens Balustrade, and to the top of the mountain.<sup>1 1898p.11</sup>

## 1899

A local ordinance prohibiting drumming was enacted on the 18<sup>th</sup> by the Hot Springs City Council.<sup>20 p.160</sup>

William Jennings Bryan lectured at the Hot Springs Opera House for the benefit of the Pythian Sanitarium.<sup>7 p.177</sup>

**1900** Additional footpaths (not described) were completed.<sup>1 1900p.18</sup>

The free dispensary stopped operating.<sup>1 1900p.16</sup>

**MAR** West Mountain Road was completed from Canyon Street to Hawthorne Street

and opened to the public.<sup>1 1900p.17</sup> Over 7105 feet of roads had already been completed.<sup>23</sup>  
D22.1900-1916.3

**JUL** Regulations for the operation of the Free Bathhouse were instituted on July 7 by an act of Congress.<sup>1 1910p.21</sup>

**1900-01** West Mountain road was completed to the summit.<sup>1 1901p.27</sup>  
The remaining springs were walled up and covered.<sup>1 1901p.27</sup>  
Two new cooling tanks were built behind the Free Bathhouse.<sup>1 1901p.27</sup>

### **1901-1916**

The Pittsburgh Pirates baseball team trained at Hot Springs.<sup>100 p. 23</sup>

### **1902**

The Haywood report on the chemical content of the springs and their geologic history was completed.<sup>1 1903p.3</sup>

### **1903**

**FEB** A special act of the Arkansas Legislature on the 21<sup>st</sup> ceded complete jurisdiction over a portion of the Hot Springs Reservation to the U.S. Government.<sup>1 1903p.10</sup>

**NOV** Congress authorized funds on the 10th for building surface and deep reservoirs on Hot Springs Reservation.<sup>23 D22.1900-1916.3</sup>

**FY1905** The pumping equipment in the superintendent's office building was sold, leaving an empty room 30 feet by 32 feet that was earmarked as more general office space.<sup>1 1905p.18</sup>

### **1905**

A fire on February 25 destroyed much of the downtown business district, including the Alhambra Bathhouse, the Moody Hotel,<sup>1 1905p.10-11; 23 C3823</sup> the Grand Central Hotel, the Plateau Hotel, and the Illinois Hotel.<sup>7 p.180</sup> The Moody was later rebuilt.<sup>7 p.186</sup> The brick shell of the Plateau was salvaged, forming the core of the new Goddard Hotel.

The Whittington Lakes were filled in because insufficient water flow periodically made them become stagnant.<sup>1 1906p.10</sup>

The Fountain Street cold water spring was opened up to create a greater water flow, and the pavilion floor was refinished with larger tiles.<sup>1 1908p.6</sup>

All but 24 of the Government Free Bathhouse porcelain tubs, substandard in quality, were replaced with a pool system.<sup>1 1908p.13</sup>

1,676 feet of retaining walls, two feet thick and an average of 4.5 feet high, were built on the upper sides of Hot Springs Mountain roads. The stone used came from the mountainside.<sup>1 1908p.5</sup>

**1909** Measures were instituted by Supt. Harry Myers to combat drumming; these included:

- \* Train inspectors and public announcements to warn train passengers about drumming, instituted on October 15,<sup>1 1910p.7</sup>



\* Daily bathhouse registration of tickets/services sold.

As a result, several physicians involved in drumming were removed from the list of registered physicians.<sup>1 1910p.7</sup>

The reservation front and Hot Springs Mountain Drive were lighted for the first time.<sup>1 1910p.8</sup>

Richard L. Gaffney became the park's first mounted policeman.<sup>1 1910p.12</sup>

## 1909-1910

The Chicago Cubs and the Boston Red Sox baseball teams trained at Hot Springs.<sup>100 p. 23, 25</sup>

## 1910

On September 10 the first (and last) Medical Director, Maj. Harry M. Hallock, assumed his duties; the position was instituted to improve the operation of the Free Bathhouse and supervise bathhouse "sanitation, hydrotherapy, and hygiene."<sup>1 1911 p.10</sup>

The first bath attendants' class of instruction was taught by Medical Director Harry Hallock on 17 October.<sup>27 1911p.15</sup>

William G. Maurice received the remaining 2/3 interest in the Maurice (formerly the Independent) Bathhouse.<sup>23 C3823.1887-1915</sup>

A six-room brick residence replaced the old gardener's quarters in Whittington Park.<sup>1 1911p.10</sup>

J. G. Horn designed the pavilion now called the "pagoda shelter" to be built at Lookout Point on Hot Springs Mountain. Its original purpose was to shelter a drinking fountain fed by an old well beside the nearby observation tower. Local builder Gibson Mills constructed the building for \$1030,<sup>23 D46...Pavilions 1894-1937.1</sup> but when drilling commenced, Supt. Harry Meyers was dismayed to find the well had dried up. Other attempts to find underground water also proved unsuccessful. The triangular stone fountain, already set to receive water, was removed and stored to prevent it from being damaged by vandals.<sup>23 D46...Fountains 1897-1914.1</sup>

**DEC** In a letter to Superintendent Harry Meyers on Christmas Eve, Samuel Fordyce stated, "I would prefer to wait until the Maurice is about completed [to build the new Fordyce Bathhouse] in order that I may avail myself of any improvements they may make, as well as to find out if I can have built a more attractive and convenient house than the Maurice House..."<sup>23 C2823 Palace BH 1883-1914</sup>

## 1910-11

The Cincinnati Reds baseball team trained at Hot Springs.<sup>100 p. 23</sup>

## 1910-12

The Brooklyn Dodgers baseball team trained at Hot Springs.<sup>100 p. 23</sup>

**1911** The Rammelsberg and Maurice Bathhouses were demolished.<sup>20 p.88</sup>

The St. Louis Browns baseball team trained at Hot Springs.<sup>100 p. 24</sup>

**MAR** The Hale hot cave was closed and padlocked on the 31st.<sup>23 C3823.3 1879-1914</sup>  
The Superior Bathhouse closed on the 31st.<sup>1 1911p.8</sup>

**JUL** A sidewalk and water trough were built in front of the Whittington cold spring, block 188 (the maintenance complex site).<sup>1 1911p.10</sup>

The Kidney Spring overflow was moved to a fountain by the Fountain Street pavilion covering a second large cold water spring. Formerly called springs 44 and 45,<sup>6</sup> Jan1924 they were renamed "General Kelley" and "Colonel Hamblen" for early superintendents.<sup>1 1912p.8</sup> The new spring fountain had a stone bowl marked "Cold Spring." According to the January 1914 monthly report, the pavilion was lighted and featured concrete posts.<sup>12</sup>

**OCT** Logs were removed from the grounds of the medical director's residence.<sup>12</sup>

An article entitled "About a House" appeared in a local publication, *The Crystal*, on the 16th; it was apparently very critical of the large amount of money being spent on the construction of the medical director's residence on Reserve Street. It apparently disturbed Dr. Hallock, who felt he was making no out-of-the-ordinary requests in regard to the house's construction.<sup>23 D34.1902-1933.4</sup>

**1912** Clocks and thermometers were placed in bath areas so that bathers could make sure physicians' directions were being carried out.<sup>1</sup>

A sidewalk and retaining wall were built behind the Maurice.<sup>1 1912p.8</sup>

Retaining walls were built on park roads: 2,430 linear feet on Hot Springs Mountain, 2,732 on West Mountain, and 135 feet in front of blocks 188-89 at the Whittington cold spring.<sup>1 1912p.8</sup>

The Philadelphia Phillies baseball team trained at Hot Springs.<sup>100 p. 23</sup>

**DEC** In a letter to Medical Director Hallock on the 14th, Chief Clerk Clement S. Ucker of the Department of the Interior wrote that "the cost of this residence from its inception to date has been much beyond the anticipated figure, and the entire matter has been fraught with vexation and disappointment." This was in reply to a written list of requests from Hallock that included a stove in the laundry room, a natural gas connection to the furnace, and the addition of picture moldings to the walls.<sup>23 D34.1902-1933.4</sup>

**FY1912** Frame comfort stations (two on Hot Springs Mountain, one each on West and North Mountains) were completed.<sup>1 1912p.8</sup>

**1912** Still without a water supply, the pagoda shelter at Lookout Point on Hot Springs Mountain was being repeatedly vandalized. To discourage the practice, the park installed a sign there printed with Federal 33 Statute 187 spelling out the legal consequences of vandalism.<sup>23 D46...fountains 1897-1914</sup>

**JAN** The new Maurice Bathhouse opened on the 1st.<sup>1 1912p.6</sup>

**FEB** Buckstaff Bathhouse (replacing the Rammelsberg) opened on the 1st.<sup>1 1912p.6</sup>

**APR** The new Imperial Bathhouse opened on the 23rd.<sup>1 1912p.6</sup>

## 1912-18

The Boston Red Sox baseball team trained at Hot Springs.<sup>100 p. 25</sup>

**c1913** Medical Director Hallock developed the bath thermometer manufactured by Taylor Instrument Company and widely used in the bathhouses.<sup>12 (April 1942)</sup>

An ornamental tufa fountain was built behind the Maurice.<sup>1 1914, p.11</sup>

**1913** A great fire destroyed 50 city blocks in the business district of Hot Springs on September 5; the Moody and Park Hotels, Ozark Sanatorium, and Crystal Bathhouse were destroyed.<sup>1 1914, p.8</sup>

The Thompson Building was completed.<sup>9</sup>

**FEB** Dr. Hallock moved into the new medical director's residence.<sup>12</sup>

**DEC** The Palace Bathhouse closed on the 31st and was immediately razed to make way for the Fordyce Bathhouse.<sup>1 1914p.7</sup>

**1914** Supt. Charles Trowbridge solved the problem of getting water to the pagoda shelter on Hot Springs Mountain by arranging to obtain free cooled thermal spring water from the Army-Navy cooling tank. A tank and pump were purchased and installed for \$996.73. The pump went into operation on July 30, sending water to a standpipe. On September 22 the park purchased a B-140 drinking fountain from the Rundle-Spence Manufacturing Company for \$28.<sup>23 D46...Fountains 1897-1914.1</sup> For the first time in history, thirsty visitors to the summit of Hot Springs Mountain could refresh themselves with spring water from a fountain.

**JAN** On the 17th, the Alum Spring pavilion was refurbished and the spring renamed the Major Harry M. Hallock Spring.<sup>1 1914p.12</sup> At this time it had a timber frame covered with galvanized iron, resting on a base of Alabama limestone.<sup>23 D46</sup>

**MAR** Excavation of the reservoir at the Fordyce Bathhouse site was begun; it was completed in April.<sup>12</sup>

**MAR** Hale Bathhouse was closed for remodeling<sup>1 1914p.7</sup> by Little Rock Architects George Mann and Eugene John Stern.<sup>28 HOSP 7610-11, 5132, 5137</sup>

**JUL** Fifteen ornamental steel cluster (five globes in each) electric light standards erected on Bathhouse Row; the lighted area was nicknamed the "white way".<sup>12</sup>

The Oertel Fitness Trail was completed; 87 markers were set in concrete<sup>6</sup> and placed 300 feet apart. They were painted to match the appropriate color on the Oertel map: yellow for level, green for slight incline, blue for moderately steep, red for very steep.<sup>1 1915p.7</sup>

**NOV** Leo N. Levi Memorial Hospital and Bathhouse opened on the 1st.<sup>12</sup>

**DEC** Twelve magnolia trees were set out on the reservation;<sup>6</sup> others had been in place since 1894.<sup>26 1894</sup>

Pythian Bathhouse opened on the 27th.<sup>1 1915p.12</sup>

**c1915** DeSoto Mineral Springs depot (now Mountain Valley Water Headquarters) was completed.<sup>9</sup>

**1915** Edward Hoadley Johnson built the first section of the Como Hotel at the corner of Ouachita and Market Streets; the hotel's main entrance opened onto Ouachita.<sup>29 p.2</sup>

**JAN** The Hale Bathhouse reopened on the 1st; it cost over \$50,000 to remodel it.<sup>1 1915p.11</sup>

**MAR** Fordyce Bathhouse, built and equipped at a cost of over \$200,000, opened on the 1st.<sup>1 1915 p.11</sup>

The Horseshoe Bathhouse closed.<sup>1 1921p30</sup>

The interior of the Maurice Bathhouse was updated by architects Mann and Stern.<sup>9</sup>

McLeod's Happy Hollow businesses may have been closed down.<sup>7</sup>

A stone wall of rubble topped with Alabama limestone was built along Reserve Avenue, running from the Army-Navy Hospital grounds to the superintendent's residence above.<sup>1 1915p.8</sup>

The Arlington Hotel Company bought the property where the Hot Springs bathhouse was located.<sup>1 1915p.12</sup>

**MAY** The Great Northern Hotel bathhouse closed on the 15th.<sup>1 1915p.12, 23 C3823</sup>

William G. Maurice signed a contract agreeing to pay the Rossbach Art Glass Company of Columbus, Ohio, \$1678.00 for a series of art glass skylights and windows. A separate invoice was submitted for painting the ceiling canvases and the wall canvas in the "Dutch Room."<sup>31</sup>

**JUN** The first sketches for the new Ozark Bathhouse were drawn up by Mann and Stern, Architects.<sup>23 C3823 Ozark Bathhouse</sup> This set featured twin domed cupolas.<sup>28 HOSP 4515</sup>

**AUG** The first Superior Bathhouse was razed.<sup>12</sup>

**OCT** The entry and sidewalk at the Formal Entrance were paved.<sup>1 1916p.17</sup>

**NOV** Assistant Interior Secretary Stephen T. Mather and his secretary H. M. Albright visited Hot Springs Reservation for the first time.<sup>1 1916p.8</sup>

Assistant Secretary Mather objected to the cupolas in the first Ozark Bathhouse plans because they served no practical purpose and detracted from the Bathhouse Row skyline.<sup>1 1921</sup>

**1916** A road (now closed) from the summit of North Mountain down the north slope to Ramble Street was completed.<sup>1 1916p.17</sup>

A grand jury indicted twenty men involved in drumming.<sup>20 p.161</sup>

Ed. H. Johnson completed the Como Hotel, changing the main entrance so that it opened onto Market Street, with a third entrance on the Central Avenue side of the building. The completed hotel occupied the entire block bound by Central, Ouachita, Market, and Olive streets, and its name was derived from the first letters of these four streets.<sup>29 p.2</sup>

**FEB** The present Superior Bathhouse opened on February 16;<sup>6</sup> a sidewalk connected steps (since removed) north of the building with the front sidewalk; iron handrails were placed along the steps.<sup>1 1916p.18</sup>

The West Mountain Road was opened to automobile traffic (during daylight hours only) on the 22nd.<sup>12</sup>

**APR** On the 1st a free clinic was organized for the benefit of patrons of the Free Bathhouse, largely to assess the physiological and therapeutic effects of the water.<sup>1 1916p.24</sup>

**MAY** The embankment wall behind the second Arlington Hotel (now Arlington Lawn) was completed by the 17<sup>th</sup>.<sup>30 HOSP 7314-17</sup>

**JUN** Mann and Stern revised their plans for Ozark Bathhouse, substituting twin Spanish mission-style towers for the cupolas.<sup>28 HOSP 5154</sup>

**AUG** On the 25<sup>th</sup>, the National Park Service was established as an agency of the Department of the Interior.

**1917 APR** The Hale Bathhouse basement was enhanced by the addition of a white tiled, electrically lighted spring enclosure completed on the 11th.<sup>23 C3823.1,2 1918-1930</sup>

**OCT-NOV**

Horseshoe Bathhouse was razed; Magnesia Bathhouse was allowed to stay open, but its exterior received a new coat of paint to make the building less of an eyesore.<sup>23 C3823.Magnesia Bathhouse</sup>

**1918** Mann and Stern submitted their report, along with watercolor renderings now in the museum collection, for the development of Bathhouse Row.<sup>1 1918p.28</sup>

**FEB** Mann and Stern completed another Ozark Bathhouse plan revision, retaining the Spanish mission-style towers.<sup>28 HOSP 5155</sup>

**MAR** Mr. Hemingway, lessee of Hale Bathhouse, asked Director Mather for permission to reopen the Hot Cave, but Supt. Parks said it would be inadvisable because of poor ventilation.<sup>23 C3823.1,2 1918-1930</sup>

**APR** Mann and Stern's revised Ozark Bathhouse drawings were endorsed by the park superintendent on the 2nd, but slight revisions were made before their final acceptance in 1921.<sup>23 C3823 Ozark Bathhouse</sup>

**SEP** Wooden posts on the Kelly Spring pavilion on Fountain Street were replaced.<sup>12</sup>

**OCT** The fence around the Whittington Park tennis court was repaired.<sup>12</sup>

**NOV** Maple trees were set out along Reserve Avenue, including the yard of the superintendent's (formerly medical director's) residence.<sup>12</sup>

William Jennings Bryan visited the reservation.<sup>12</sup>

## 1919

**AUG** Samuel Wesley Fordyce died on the 3rd.<sup>32 p.107</sup>

**NOV** Hot Springs City block 82 (now the site of Libbey Memorial Physical Medicine Center) was donated to the National Park Service as a site for the new Government Free Bathhouse.<sup>1 1921p.9</sup>

**1920** The chief clerk of Hot Springs Reservation moved into the Fountain Street residence.<sup>23 D34.1902-1933.2</sup>

**JAN** A ground-breaking ceremony was held on the 31st for the construction of the new Government Free Bathhouse; moving pictures were made but have been lost.<sup>12</sup>

**FEB** The first sign boards were erected "for the safety of autoists" on the reservation roads, and on the 14th the Hot Springs and North Mountain roadways were officially opened for one-way automobile traffic by General John J. Pershing and Assistant Secretary of the Interior Selden G. Hopkins.<sup>12</sup>

**MAY** Early in the month a heavy period of rain damaged roads and city streets and caused mountain landslides.<sup>12</sup>

**NOV** Buckstaff, Maurice, Superior and Hale interiors were painted; Hale and Superior exteriors were painted.<sup>12</sup>

Salvarsan (a treatment for syphilis) began to be furnished by the Public Health Department in the free clinic above the Government Free Bathhouse on the 1st.<sup>1 1921p.23</sup>

**JUNE** Mercury rubbing rates increased on the 1st.<sup>12</sup>

**DEC** The old superintendent's residence on Fountain Street was remodeled for occupation by the chief clerk and assistant to the superintendent; most of the work was completed by December.<sup>12</sup>

## 1920-1923

The Pittsburgh Pirates and Boston Red Sox baseball teams trained at Hot Springs.<sup>100 p. 23, 25</sup>

**1920** Magnesia Bathhouse was razed in November (Horseshoe Bathhouse had already been demolished) to make way for the Platt Bathhouse (eventually named the Quapaw Bathhouse).<sup>12</sup>

**1921** The Department of the Treasury agreed to furnish superintendents for the park from the U.S. Public Health Service.<sup>1 1932p.3</sup>

**MAR** Hot Springs Reservation became Hot Springs National Park on the 4th.<sup>12</sup>

**NOV** The Harry M. Hallock (formerly Alum) spring pavilion was removed; the spring was capped and the site leveled.<sup>12</sup>

The new United States Free Bathhouse was dedicated on the 14<sup>th</sup> but not yet opened to the public.<sup>12</sup>

**1922** Woodmen of the Union hospital and bathhouse was completed.<sup>1 1922p.4</sup>

The Quapaw Bathhouse was erected on the site of the Horseshoe and Magnesia Bathhouses.<sup>1 1922p.4</sup>

The new Pythian Bathhouse was completed.<sup>12</sup>

**JAN** The new Government Free Bathhouse opened for business.<sup>12</sup>

**cJUL** Ozark Bathhouse was completed.<sup>9, 6</sup>

**OCT** A training course for bath attendants was conducted at the Government Free Bathhouse.<sup>12</sup>

**1923**

**MAR** Whittington Lake Park tennis court, residence, pavilions were repaired and painted in March and April.<sup>12</sup>

**APR** The second Arlington Hotel burned down on the 5th.<sup>12</sup>

The current Lamar Bathhouse was completed and opened for business on the 16th.<sup>12</sup>

**cJUN** The old Government Free Bathhouse was demolished.<sup>23 D34 Buildings—Free BH 1922-38.3</sup>

**JUN** A new trail between Happy Hollow and the Iron Spring in Gulpha Gorge was begun in April and completed; it crossed North Mountain.<sup>12</sup>

**MAY** A severe storm on the 14th resulted in flooding "reaching a depth of nine feet on Central Avenue"; a concomitant lightning strike also caused a fire that destroyed the whole commercial block with the exception of the Marquette Hotel annex (the Marquette itself was destroyed) and the Citizens' National Bank.<sup>12</sup>

**1924** A map of the entire hot water system was made to accurately depict locations of pipes, springs, and reservoirs.<sup>1 1924p.4</sup>

**JAN** Concrete walks were built from the main promenade sidewalk to each of the comfort stations flanking the Quapaw Bathhouse.<sup>12</sup>

**FEB** The Quapaw Bathhouse featured violin and piano musical programs from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for its patrons.<sup>23 C3823.1920-1953.3</sup>

**APR** Concrete curbing to replace the stone curbing along the Bathhouse Row

promenade sidewalk was completed.<sup>12</sup>

The cold water spring at the Fountain Street pavilion dried up in 1923; the pavilion was connected with city water in April.<sup>12</sup> This was not the Happy Hollow (formerly Magnesia) Spring on Fountain Street.

**MAY** The trail from Happy Hollow Road to the back of the new Arlington Hotel was constructed; branch trails to the crest of North Mountain and to the lookout point above Central Avenue on North Mountain were completed in June; steps were built to the top of Goat Rock and a stone bench built on the rock itself.<sup>12</sup>

**JUN** Two stone shelter pavilions, one on North and one on West Mountain, were built.<sup>12</sup>

**JUL** A rustic bridge with a concrete foundation was built across Gulpha Creek to Iron Spring; the spring was given a stone facing.<sup>12</sup>

**OCT** Rector Bathhouse closed on the 15th.<sup>1 1925p.7</sup>

**DEC** The trail from the rear exit of the Arlington to the main trail on North Mountain was completed.<sup>12</sup>

Rommel Dam (forming Lake Catherine) was dedicated on the 31st.<sup>12</sup>

The third Arlington Hotel formally opened on the 31st.<sup>12</sup>

On the 1st the park actively took over the public camp grounds located in Gulpha Gorge in conformity with an act passed by the Arkansas Legislature granting the Federal Government exclusive criminal jurisdiction over these camp grounds. There was apparently some unspecified opposition to the act.<sup>1 1925p.2</sup> The 16 acres of land involved were donated to the park.<sup>1 1925supplementp.1</sup> The donation increased the park's size to 927 acres.<sup>1 1931p.2</sup>

**1925** The Hot Springs to Benton Highway was paved<sup>1 1925supplementp.1</sup> and formally opened on July 4.<sup>1 1926p.11</sup>

**JAN** At the automobile tourist camp at Gulpha Gorge a comfort station was begun,<sup>12</sup> bridges built, electricity brought in, a well drilled, a pump house built, a road constructed to open up campsites, and the dam repaired.<sup>1 1925p.5</sup>

**JUN** At the Gulpha Gorge auto camp, a number of projects were finished—clearing out underbrush, filling in marshy areas, building comfort stations, digging a 100-ft artesian well, replacing bridges and culverts, deepening and cleaning out the swimming pool, building a road for access to planned campsites, and installing an electrical system.<sup>12</sup>  
6/30/1925 p5

**1925-26** A sewer pipe was laid in the creek arch, replacing the 10-inch tile sewer laid in 1886.<sup>1 1925p.5</sup>

## 1926

**JAN** The park's mule team was sold/disposed of, and the 1903 barn above Arlington Lawn was totally dedicated to machinery.<sup>12</sup>

**MAY** Transformation of the barn to a garage and shops was completed; the shop was open for service.<sup>12</sup>

**JUL** A diving board was constructed at the Gulpha Gorge swimming pool.<sup>12</sup>

**SEP** Work began on paving the Hot Springs Mountain road with concrete.<sup>12</sup>

**DEC** The trail from Reserve Avenue to Iron Springs in Gulpha Gorge, going around the eastern slope of Hot Springs Mountain, was completed.<sup>12</sup>

The Majestic Apartment annex, built on the site of the 1830s Whittington House, was connected to the 1903 building;<sup>24</sup> it opened for business in December.<sup>12</sup>

**1926-27** A new trail was built from the top of the ridge road on North Mountain at the Arlington Trail to the beginning of the Goat Rock trail on North Mountain.<sup>1 1927p.6</sup>

**1927** The paving of the Hot Springs Mountain road was completed, inspected, and approved on January 15; the new concrete road was opened to the public on February 6.<sup>12</sup> At this time there were twelve miles of road in the park.<sup>1 1927p.6</sup>

**FEB** At this time West Mountain had three trails: Whippoorwill, Sunset, and Angel's Flight. Hot Springs and North Mountains had nine: Dogwood, Arlington, Magnesia, Seal, Switchback Paths, Shortcut, Dead Chief, Iron Springs, and Goat Rock.<sup>28 HO SP 15293</sup>

**MAR** On the 12th park policeman James A. Cary was shot and killed on West Mountain,<sup>12</sup> becoming the first National Park Service ranger to be murdered on duty.<sup>33</sup>

**APR** Two shelter houses (one each for North and West Mountains) were constructed of native stone and timbers.<sup>12</sup>

**1928** Again throughout the year thermal water continued to be in short supply, with strict conservation measures necessary to keep the bathhouses from closing due to lack of water.<sup>12</sup>

Demolition began on the old Government Free Bathhouse cooling tanks (later used by the Ozark and Quapaw Bathhouses), but the towers were not completely removed until October; Quapaw Bathhouse completed its new tank by March, and Ozark Bathhouse began erecting one on the old tank site. The salvaged stone and concrete were used to fill in a bad curve on West Mountain.<sup>12</sup>

**FEB** A new diving board was erected in the Gulpha Gorge pool.<sup>12</sup>

A pipe line was laid to bring spring water from the Whittington Avenue gravel pit to Whittington Park.<sup>12</sup>

**MAY** The High Point Trail was completed; constructed to accommodate both pedestrians and horses, it began at the Prospect entrance of West Mountain and ended at the Whittington Avenue entrance. It was later renamed the Mountaintop Trail.<sup>12</sup>

The stone comfort station on West Mountain was completed.<sup>12</sup>

Improvements began on the original Gulpha Gorge road connecting with the Little Rock highway, with work on the bridge over the creek commencing on the 9th;<sup>12</sup> it was completed before the end of fiscal year 1929.<sup>1 1929p.4</sup> Part of this road forms a hiking trail today.

**AUG** The road through Gulpha Gorge (with three bridges) was opened to the public on the 30th.<sup>12</sup>

The trail from the "turn of the road to Hawthorne Trail" on West Mountain was completed.<sup>12</sup>

**DEC** A trail from the Tower to Dead Chief Trail was completed; another trail from the Tower to the cutoff road was begun; the native stone comfort station on North Mountain at the intersection of Canyon and Ramble Streets was completed.<sup>12</sup>



**1929** The Medical Arts Building was completed.<sup>12</sup>

**JAN** A stone shelter house on West Mountain overlooking the Majestic Hotel was completed.<sup>12</sup>

**FEB** The defendant in the murder case of James Cary was found "not guilty" in the Circuit Court on the 25th.<sup>12</sup>

**1930-31** A central collection, impounding and distribution system for the thermal water was constructed; and completed in June 1931.<sup>1 1931p.6</sup> Meters were also installed to more accurately measure water going into the bathhouses, but that system was not working satisfactorily until 1933.<sup>1 1933p.6</sup>

The rest of Reserve adjoining the park was paved.<sup>1 1931supplementp.6</sup>

**1931**

**APR** On the 17th, land adjoining both the Army-Navy Hospital grounds and the residence on Reserve Avenue was assigned to the War Department. The grounds and the residence were also temporarily ceded to the War Department,<sup>28 HOSP 8467</sup> which was in the process of constructing a new Army-Navy hospital complex. Sites for a new superintendent's residence were under discussion, but the Assistant Landscape Architect Charles E. Peterson recommended that the status quo be maintained since incumbent superintendent Dr. Collins was quite pleased with the residence.<sup>23 D34: Buildings-Quarters.1904-1933</sup>

**OCT** The Maurice therapeutic pool was completed in October.<sup>12</sup>

**DEC** Construction began on the Gulpha Gorge caretaker's cabin.<sup>12</sup>

**1931-32** A resurvey of park boundaries (the first resurvey made since 1877) was completed by the U.S. General Land Office.<sup>1 1932p.15</sup>

A thermal display pool was made from two small hot springs.<sup>1 1932p.15</sup>

Col. John R. Fordyce offered to donate 80 acres of land to the government.<sup>1 1932p.19</sup> (See February 1935.)

**1932** Carpenter Dam (forming Lake Hamilton) was completed.

**JAN** Thomas J. Allen became the first Hot Springs superintendent to be selected from the National Park Service. Early superintendents came from the U.S. Army; later ones were political appointees named by each new Secretary of the Interior. From 1921 to 1932 they came from the Public Health Department.<sup>1 1932p.3</sup>

**APR** The National Park Service Superintendents' Conference was held here on the 3rd-9th.<sup>12</sup>

Hot Springs Reservation centennial was held the 25th-30th.<sup>12</sup>

DeSoto Rock plaque was dedicated on the 30th.<sup>12</sup>

**DEC** Bathhouse Row was decorated for Christmas by Hot Springs National Park for the first time.<sup>12</sup>

**1933** Supt. Allen complained about the site of the current superintendent's residence, since construction for the new Army-Navy complex was noisy, disturbing the natural landscape around it. He asked the Army to provide a \$15,000 allowance to the park service to build another superintendent's residence in a new location, but no funds were

forthcoming.<sup>23 D34: Buildings-Quarters.1904-1933</sup>

Park concession business dropped off because of the Great Depression, but early closing to decrease operating costs stopped the decline.<sup>1 1934p.6</sup>

**MAR** An act of the state legislature was approved ceding exclusive jurisdiction over all lands then or thereafter included in the park to the U.S. Government; before this, jurisdiction was limited to three separate areas that did not represent the entire park.<sup>1 1933p.1</sup>

**MAY** H. Raymond Gregg was employed as a park policeman but was chosen for his education and abilities in science, particularly botany, because they fit the prerequisites of the proposed junior park naturalist examination. He was to be assigned the first naturalist work ever performed at the park.<sup>12</sup>

A Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp was established at Hot Springs National Park.<sup>12</sup>

**JUN** The CCC camp was completed on rented private land adjacent to the park.<sup>12</sup>

Telephone lines serving Bathhouse Row buildings were removed from poles and either buried or concealed on lower building portions, as appropriate.<sup>12</sup>

**AUG** CCC workers built a dry rubble wall along the creek in Gulpha Gorge Campground.<sup>12</sup>

**SEP** The CCC began the excavation of the swimming pool in Gulpha Gorge Campground along with rockwork for the culverts there.<sup>12</sup>

**OCT** The new Army-Navy Hospital opened.<sup>12</sup>

**NOV** CCC workers completed the dam excavation and culvert work in Gulpha Gorge Campground.<sup>12</sup>

**DEC** The CCC unit left Hot Springs for Ozark National Forest.<sup>12</sup> After six months of work at the park, the CCC crew was replaced with local labor through the Civil Works Administrations; both groups worked on trail maintenance, construction of a ridge trail connecting West and Sugar Loaf Mountains (eventually forming a section of Sunset Trail), erosion control, forestry activities, and excavation for the formal Promenade behind Bathhouse Row.<sup>1 1934p.5</sup>

Public Works funds were obtained for a new hot water line to the Government Free Bathhouse, a sewage disposal system at Gulpha Gorge campground, utility buildings (now the Maintenance Complex) on Whittington, an administration building, reconstruction of West Mountain roads, and the start of the formal Promenade. A sewage disposal system for the city was also authorized with the Federal government responsible for 27.5% of the total cost through a Public Works allotment.<sup>1 1934p.4</sup> The promenade project caused some local opposition from people who thought the area involved should either be made into a parking lot or a bypass for motor traffic.<sup>1 1938p.5</sup>

## 1934

## 1935

**FEB** On the 15th the Secretary of the Interior accepted a deed conveying 63.2 acres on Indian Mountain (donated by Col. J. R. Fordyce) on which there were prehistoric novaculite quarries.<sup>34</sup> This donation increased the park's size to approximately 1009 acres.<sup>1 1937p.1</sup>

**MAR** Camp Garraday, located adjacent to the auto camp in Gulpha Gorge, was constructed by the Federal Transient Bureau.<sup>12</sup>

**MAY** Administration offices of Hot Springs National Park were moved to the Medical

Arts Building; the old headquarters were demolished.<sup>12</sup>

**JUN** The old park headquarters building was demolished to make way for the new administration building.<sup>30 HOSP 2800, HOSP 10034</sup>

**JUL** Grading for the Grand Promenade was completed.<sup>12</sup>

**NOV** The Woodmen of the Union Bathhouse closed because of financial difficulties.<sup>1</sup>  
1936p.7

**1935-36** The West Mountain road was reconstructed, realigned, widened, and paved; however, persistent slides which took place over a three-year period prevented the project from being turned over to the National Park Service by the Bureau of Public Roads.<sup>1 1936p.4</sup>

**1936 FEB** The current administration building was completed; staff moved in.<sup>12</sup>

**MAR** The new administration building was dedicated early in the month.<sup>12</sup>

**JUN** President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited the park on the 10th; during this visit, he toured Fordyce Bathhouse<sup>12</sup> and inspected other bathhouses along the row.<sup>1 1936p.15</sup>  
The fountain in front of the administration building was completed.<sup>12</sup>

**1936-37** The new county road through Gulpha Gorge was completed.<sup>1 1937p.21</sup> It eventually became the present Highway 7<sup>s</sup>.

**1937** The Canyon Street road on North Mountain was closed to traffic around this time.<sup>1 1938p.8</sup>

Supt. Donald Libbey received permission from the Department of the Interior to raze the pagoda shelter on Hot Springs Mountain because of constant vandalization. However, he decided to tear it down as part of an upcoming project of realigning the mountain drives.<sup>23 D46...Pavillions 1894-1937.1</sup> When the time came, the decision to raze the structure was apparently reversed.

**JAN** The first whirlpool bath was installed in Fordyce Bathhouse in January.<sup>12</sup>

**MAR** The Imperial Bathhouse closed on 31 March<sup>1 1937p.8</sup> and was demolished on June 5.<sup>12</sup>

**JUN** The Hot Springs National Park museum was formally opened to the public on June 20.<sup>1 1937p.4</sup>

**1937-38** The Majestic Bathhouse was rebuilt.<sup>1 1938p.10</sup>

**1938** Act of Congress H.R. 5763 authorized the extension of Hot Springs National Park boundaries by 4,763 acres, covering the mountain ridges to connect the three existing discontinuous areas of the park: West, Sugar Loaf, and North/Hot Springs mountains. It also covered the area adjoining and including Fountain Street and areas adjoining the maintenance complex.<sup>1 1938p.2-3</sup>

**1939** The Hale Bathhouse was renovated to look as it does today; renovation began in May and was completed in August, with landscaping done in September.<sup>12</sup>

**FEB** The Hubbard-Currence tub was installed in Fordyce Bathhouse but was not used until March 9.<sup>12</sup>

**JUN** Col. John R. Fordyce died in the Army-Navy General Hospital on the 9th after

suffering a heart attack on 26 May; Dr. W. V. Laws, owner of Ozark Sanatorium and Bathhouse, also died that day.<sup>12</sup>

**NOV** The Civilian Conservation Corps (C. C. C.) opened a work camp at Lake Hamilton. Half of the resources were to be spent on improvements to Hot Springs National Park; the other half was to go for Game and Fish Commission work (the camp was located on the site of the fish hatchery on Lake Hamilton, so the work probably was connected with building the hatchery). The crew improved mountain roads and trails, landscaped the creek in Whittington Park, and prepared and stored materials. The camp had been transferred from camp SP-1 in North Dakota.<sup>1 1940</sup>

## 1941

**JUN** Acting Park Naturalist Henry W. Lix received appointment as Junior Park Naturalist effective the 1st.<sup>12</sup>

**JUL** Gulpha Gorge swimming pool closed on the 9th due to contamination of Gulpha Creek; it was drained on recommendation of the U.S. Public Health Department and permanently abandoned.<sup>12, 1 1942p.3</sup>

**1942** Front rooms added to each end of Ozark Bathhouse extended the front line of the porch along the entire length of the building's first floor.<sup>30 HOSP 17350</sup>

**MAR** CCC Camp NP-2, the crews of which had been operating continuously in Hot Springs National Park since 1NOV1939, closed suddenly on the 15th.<sup>1 1942p.5</sup>

**AUG** Brickwork on the Grand Promenade from the south entrance to the ramp off the Formal Entrance (370 lineal feet) was completed.<sup>12</sup>

**OCT** The military took over the Eastman Hotel as an annex of the Army-Navy Hospital, later building an aerial walkway between it and the main hospital.<sup>12</sup>

## 1944

**JUL** The 32-acre Camp Garraday site was deeded to the National Park Service by the U.S. Public Health Service on the 28th.<sup>12</sup>

**NOV** Bathhouse managers agreed to eliminate all electrical and mechanical equipment from their massage departments effective on the first of the month.<sup>12</sup>

**DEC** "For the first time in the history of the bathhouse business in Hot Springs, Sunday operation...was discontinued effective December 24..."<sup>12</sup>

The Ozark Sanatorium Bathhouse contract was transferred to the Methodist Hospital of Arkansas on the 29th.<sup>1 1945p.9-10</sup>

## 1945

**JUL** The Army took over the Arlington, Majestic, Park, and DeSoto Hotels as part of the Army redistribution program stationed at the Army-Navy Hospital.<sup>1 1945p.1</sup>

The Noble Fountain was moved from the corner of Central and Reserve to the sidewalk in front of the administration building.<sup>30 HOSP 1418-19</sup>

**NOV** The redistribution station was deactivated and the above hotels returned to civilian use.<sup>1 1946p.2</sup> The Eastman annex was converted to officer's quarters and office space.<sup>1 1946p.5</sup>

**1946** This was a record year for visitation to Hot Springs National Park, with baths

given increasing 5.8% over the fiscal year 1944 record. In the pay bathhouses 952,467 baths were given; an additional 25,000 free baths were given at the free bathhouse, at Levi Hospital, and as complimentary services at pay bathhouses.<sup>1 1946p.1</sup>

#### 1948

**MAR** After 26 years of occupation, the Public Health Service removed its venereal clinic from the Government Free Bathhouse and transferred it to Camp Garraday.<sup>12</sup>

#### 1950

**FEB** The central cooling system for the bathhouses, designed by James Hamilton, was officially completed on the 3rd; cooling towers were to remain standing for a year longer.<sup>12</sup>

#### 1951

**FEB** The National Baptist Bathhouse opened for business on the 8th.<sup>12</sup>

**1952** The National Park Service sequoia cone symbol was replaced by the arrowhead symbol.<sup>35</sup>

#### 1953

**MAY** The U.S. Public Health Medical Center (Camp Garraday) ceased operating on the 10th; the buildings were declared surplus property in July.<sup>12</sup>

#### 1954

**MAR** On the 25th the University of Arkansas issued two reports on radioactivity in the area; the research was funded by the Atomic Energy Commission.<sup>1 1954p.6</sup>

**AUG** On the 11th the land and buildings formerly occupied by Camp Garraday were transferred to the Hot Springs School District No. 6 and the Garland County Health Unit, with the land reverting to the National Park Service should it ever be abandoned.<sup>1 1954p.4</sup>

**1955** The Army-Navy Hospital was scheduled to close 30 June; it was ordered to reopen in August.<sup>12</sup>

Blakely Dam forming Lake Ouachita was completed.

#### 1956

**JAN** Approved contracts to serve indigent bathers were transmitted to Moody, National Baptist, Lamar, Hale, Maurice, Alhambra, Superior, Rockafellow, and Pythian bathhouses on the 30-31.<sup>12</sup>

**FEB** According to Supt. Libbey, the "second most disasterous [sic] flood ever to strike the downtown section of Hot Springs" occurred on the 15th, with three feet of water flowing down Central Avenue at the flood's crest.<sup>12</sup>

A new jug fountain (still in use today) in front of the administration building was completed.<sup>12</sup>

**1956-57** The owners of the Hale, Fordyce, and Quapaw Bathhouses, following a recommendation in the Environmental Health Survey Report, enclosed the display springs in their basements with half-inch plate glass without venting.<sup>1 1957p.1</sup>

## 1957

**JUL** The Noble fountain was moved to its present location in front of the Reserve Avenue entrance to the Promenade.<sup>23 D30 Roads & Trails: Promenade 1955-58</sup>

**AUG** The Reserve Avenue formal entrance to the Promenade was completed on the 9th.<sup>1 1958p.6</sup>

## 1958

**SEP** The Fordyce Bathhouse was authorized by the owners to be put up for sale for \$175,000.<sup>1 1959p.1</sup>

**1959** The Army-Navy Hospital became the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center.<sup>24</sup>  
The concrete drive between Fordyce and Maurice Bathhouses was replaced with a concrete walk.<sup>1 1958supplementp.5</sup>

**NOV** 4.75 acres of non-Federal land near the entrance and in park boundaries was exchanged with 5.3 acres of park land behind the Arlington Hotel; Happy Hollow spring is located on the 4.75 acres acquired.<sup>1 1960p.8</sup>

**DEC** The duplex quarters, garages, and outbuildings along Reserve Street were turned over to the park in a bill transferring ownership of the Army and Navy Hospital to the State of Arkansas.<sup>1 1960p.9</sup>

## 1960

**OCT** On the 2nd the Physical Medicine Center was dedicated as the Libbey Memorial Physical Medicine Center in recognition of the work of the late Supt. Donald S. Libbey; National Park Service Director Wirth presented the dedication address.<sup>1 1961p.1</sup>

**1961** Bird and tree checklists were compiled and placed at the information desk for the first time.<sup>1 1961p.2</sup>

**JUL** New exhibits, including the tree-section display, were installed in the museum.<sup>1 1962p.2</sup>

**1962** The Hot Springs Opera House was demolished to make way for the Aristocrat parking deck.<sup>37 p.69</sup>

**MAR** A new jug fountain was placed on Reserve Avenue near the Libbey Memorial Physical Medicine Center; the previous outlet on Spring Street was removed.<sup>12</sup>

**JUN** The Fordyce Bathhouse closed on the 30th.<sup>1 1962sup., p.1</sup>

**JUL** Jack Tar Bathhouse closed on the 21st.<sup>12</sup>

**OCT** Rockafellow Bathhouse was condemned.<sup>1 1963p.2</sup>

## 1963

**JAN** All but two bathhouses inaugurated whirlpool bath service on (or by) January 1;<sup>1 1963p.2</sup> by summer, all were offering them.<sup>12</sup>

**MAR** A test of nondiscrimination was made at the Buckstaff Bathhouse by two national officers of the NAACP on the 28th.<sup>1 1963p.2-3</sup>

## 1965

**APR** The Downtowner Hotel and Bathhouse opened.<sup>12</sup>

**NOV** A 300-seat amphitheater and new entrance road were completed in the Gulpha Gorge Campground.<sup>1 1966p.1</sup>

**1968** The Quapaw Bathhouse closed, but was reopened as Health Services Inc. in 1969.<sup>23 C3823</sup>

**1969** Quapaw Bathhouse reopened as Health Services Inc.<sup>23 C3823</sup>

**1971** The old Hot Springs Mountain observation tower was taken down on July 13.<sup>38</sup>

**1972** The park acquired 1,314 acres within its authorized boundaries at year's end.<sup>1 1974p.4</sup>

**1973** The park acquired an additional 883 acres.<sup>1 1974p.4</sup>  
Bathhouse Row and its environs were nominated as an historic district.<sup>1 1974p.4</sup>  
The United States Geological Survey completed research on the hydrology of the thermal springs.<sup>1 1974p.3</sup>

Mike Baker of the Arkansas Archeological Survey carried out a limited archeological reconnaissance of the park.<sup>1 1974p.4</sup>

In late November, an Indian and settler cultural exhibit was set up on top of Hot Springs Mountain.<sup>1 1974 p.3</sup>

**1974** Flint knapping demonstrations were given at the cultural exhibit in the summer; Youth Conservation Corps workers completed an indoor walk-in thatched Caddoan house.<sup>1 1975p.2</sup>

In connection with the Indian and settler exhibit, Eastern National Parks and Monument Association also helped purchase a sorghum mill and cases for displaying other items.<sup>1 1975p.3</sup>

**NOV** The Maurice Bathhouse closed.<sup>1 1975p.3</sup>

On the 13<sup>th</sup> Bathhouse Row and its environs were placed on the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>40</sup>

**DEC** Pythian Bathhouse closed for repairs and never reopened.<sup>23 C3823</sup>

**1974-75** Land acquisitions, including 240 acres from the Weyerhaeuser Company, brought the park's size up to 4,379.81 acres.<sup>1 1975p.6</sup>

**1975** A thermal water heating system was installed in the administration building.<sup>1 1976p.5</sup>

**1977** Further land acquisition increased park size to 4,465.04 acres.<sup>1 1977p.9</sup>

**JUN** The Federal Registration Board of Physicians and the Examining Board for Technicians were abolished by the Secretary of the Interior on the 30<sup>th</sup>.<sup>1 1978p.8</sup>

**OCT** The Ozark Bathhouse closed at the end of the month.<sup>1 1977p.2</sup>

**1978**

**OCT** The Hale Bathhouse closed on the 31<sup>st</sup>.<sup>1 1978p.2</sup>

- 1979** An additional 98.43 acres of land were acquired.<sup>1 1979p.9</sup>
- 1980** The physical fitness trail was built in Whittington Park.<sup>23 C3823</sup>
- 1982** The National Baptist Hotel and Bathhouse closed 13 November and was put up for sale the following year.<sup>23 C3823</sup>
- APR** Ground was broken for the new Hot Springs Mountain Observation Tower.<sup>1 1982p.5</sup>
- Grand Promenade became a National Recreational Trail on the 13<sup>th</sup> (Gail Sears; find reference?)
- DEC** The thermal water cascade on Arlington Lawn was completed and turned on.<sup>42</sup>
- 1983**
- JUN** The Hot Springs Mountain Observation Tower was opened to visitors on the 3rd.<sup>1 1983p.2</sup>
- OCT** The first Hot Springs Volksmarsch was held.<sup>39 HOSP 3146</sup>
- NOV** The Superior Bathhouse ceased operations<sup>44</sup> at close of business on the 5th.<sup>1 1983p.2</sup>
- 1984** Health Services Inc. closed.<sup>23 C3823</sup>
- 1985**
- NOV** The Lamar Bathhouse closed on the 16th.<sup>23 C3823; 1 1985p.1</sup>
- 1986**
- JAN** Thermal water to the DeSoto Hotel was discontinued on the 1st.<sup>23 C3823</sup>
- 1987** Bathhouse Row was named a National Historic Landmark District.
- JAN** The Hot Springs Park Hilton Hotel bathhouse began operations on the 16th.<sup>1 1987p.3</sup>
- 1989**
- MAY** A Grand Opening ceremony was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> at the newly restored Fordyce Bathhouse to celebrate its reopening as the Hot Springs National Park visitor center.<sup>47</sup>
- 2004
- MAY** On the 30<sup>th</sup> Buckstaff Bathhouse added Sunday to its days of operation for the first time since December 1944.



## FOOTNOTES

- <sup>1</sup>Hot Springs National Park Superintendent's Annual Report
- 1a Rector v. United States, 92 US 698 (1875) Supreme Court Case
- <sup>2</sup>Rowland, Life, Letters and Papers of William Dunbar, 1930
- <sup>3</sup>Bell, Report on the Hot Springs of Arkansas to the Secretary of the Interior, 1882
- <sup>4</sup>HOSP 7447, *Report of the Secretary of Interior in Answer to a Resolution of the Senate relative to the Hot Springs of Arkansas*, (Ex. Doc. No. 70), 1850.
- <sup>5</sup>HOSP 7480, Langlois Land Certificate No. 467
- <sup>6</sup>Territorial Papers, Arkansas Territory, "Memorial to Congress by the Territorial Assembly" Approved February 15, 1820; act approved April 21 1820 (3 Stat. 565) in pursuance of the prayer of the memorial.
- <sup>7</sup>Scully, Hot Springs, Arkansas and Hot Springs National Park, 1966
- <sup>8</sup>Journal of the House of Representatives of the United State, 1789-1873; Monday, February 6, 1832
- <sup>9</sup>Featherstonhaugh, Excursion through the Slave States, Volume II, 1844
- <sup>10</sup>Jansma, Jerome and Harriet H. "George Engelmann in Arkansas Territory," The Arkansas Historical Quarterly, Vol. 50, No. 3, pp. 225-248. Autumn 1991.
- <sup>11</sup>*U.S. House of Representatives, Testimony Taken before the Committee on Expenditures in the Interior Department Relative to Certain Things connected with the Government property at Hot Springs, Ark.* (House Ex. Doc. No. 89), 17 June 1884.
- <sup>12</sup>Hot Springs National Park Superintendent's Monthly Report
- <sup>13</sup>Hot Springs National Park collections, HOSP 6443, Arlington Hotel Bathhouse contract, 1878
- <sup>14</sup>Maurice, William G.; news interview circa 1923; Hot Springs National Park vertical files, "Bathhouses," "William Maurice/Historical Information."
- <sup>15</sup>Hot Springs National Park stereographic collection.
- <sup>16</sup>Cron, "The Hot Springs of Ouachita," unpublished ms., 1946
- <sup>17</sup>Cutter, Charles. Cutter's Guide to the Hot Springs of Arkansas, 1882.
- <sup>18</sup>Musick, Investigation of Hot Springs Affairs, Report to the Secretary of the Interior, 1890
- <sup>18.5</sup>HOSP 1656, receipt written on Lamar Bathhouse letterhead writing paper 6/11/1912.
- <sup>19</sup>Hudgins, "Norman McLeod and His Happy Hollow," The Hot Springs-Garland County Historical Society Record, 10th ed., 1969
- <sup>20</sup>Paige and Harrison, Out of the Vapors, 1987
- <sup>21</sup>Cline, "Mountain Valley Spring Company," The Hot Springs-Garland County Historical Society Record, 12th ed., 1971
- <sup>22</sup>Cutter, Charles. Cutter's Guide to the Hot Springs of Arkansas, 10th Edition, 1884
- <sup>23</sup>Hot Springs National Park Administrative Archives
- <sup>24</sup>Hot Springs Festival of the Arts 1991 Architectural Tour brochure
- <sup>25</sup>Olmsted and Company Archives, correspondence concerning Job #1244 for Hot Springs Reservation. Library of Congress.
- <sup>26</sup>Stevens, Report on Hot Springs Improvements
- <sup>27</sup>Hot Springs Reservation Medical Director's Annual Report
- <sup>28</sup>Hot Springs National Park Map, Drawing, and Specifications Collection
- <sup>29</sup>Cline, "Hotel Como--A Man and a Dream," The Hot Springs-Garland County Historical Society Record, 18th edition, 1977

- <sup>30</sup>Hot Springs National Park Photographic Collections.
- <sup>31</sup>Archival Collection, Business Records of Hot Springs, Arkansas Bathhouses, Series 2:1, Box 15, Folder 1 (Maurice Bathhouse).
- <sup>32</sup>"Samuel Wesley Fordyce," Centennial History of Arkansas, Deluxe Supplement, 1922
- <sup>33</sup>Ohlfs, "Cary's Story," The Hot Springs-Garland County Historical Society Record, 34th edition, 1993
- <sup>34</sup>Lix, "Report on certain Indian quarries on Indian Mountain..." 6 December 1940
- <sup>35</sup>R. Bryce Workman, NPS Uniforms: Badges and Insignia, Number 1, p. 27
- <sup>36</sup>Edens, "Vanished Landmarks and Nostalgia," The Hot Springs-Garland County Historical Society Record, 27th edition, 1986
- <sup>37</sup>Hudgins, "Hot Springs' Opera House: Home of Many Memories," The Hot Springs-Garland County Historical Society Record, 6th ed., 1965
- <sup>38</sup>Crenshaw, Hugh. News release, Hot Springs National Park collections, ACC HOSP-530
- <sup>39</sup>Hot Springs National Park museum catalog records
- <sup>40</sup>Federal Register, Vol. 44, No. 26, February 6, 1979, Part 2, p. 7425
- <sup>41</sup>McCully, Audrey Wenger, "Looking Backward through Tattered Curtains: The History of a Landmark." Garland County Historical Society Record, 27th Edition, 1986
- <sup>42</sup>Hot Springs National Park interpretive slide collection, dated slide
- <sup>43</sup>Hot Springs National Park museum file, accession 100
- <sup>44</sup>Coston, former Superior Bathhouse manager, personal communication
- <sup>45</sup>Curatorial file, 1981, trip report by Ann Hitchcock, Regional Curator, concerning a visit she made to the park in September 1981.
- <sup>46</sup>Personal communication, Hugh Crenshaw, former administrative assistant at Hot Springs National Park to Mark Blaeuer, park ranger and archaeologist.
- <sup>47</sup>Hot Springs National Park collections, HOSP 7388, Fordyce Grand Opening program
- <sup>100</sup>2001 Spring Training Baseball Yearbook, Vol. 14, p. 23, Vanguard Sports Publications, Chapel Hill, NC, 2001
- <sup>101</sup>HOSP 13535, Libbey Memorial Physical Medicine Center archives, 1952-1978.
- <sup>102</sup>Letter from Supt. Benjamin Kelley to Secretary of the Interior Carl Schurz dated 12/29/1879
- <sup>103</sup>HOSP 7126, survey notebook by Jno. Newland, surveyor for the Hot Springs Commission, 1877
- <sup>104</sup>HOSP 7135, survey notebook by William R. DeFoe, Assistant Engineer for the Hot Springs Commission, 1877

## CHRONOLOGY OF SUPERINTENDENTS

### HOT SPRINGS RESERVATION, UNDER THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT

General Benjamin Franklin Kelley	9/08/1877 to 1/01/1883
Samuel Hamblen	1/01/1883 to 7/14/1885
Charles W. Field	7/14/1885 to 6/18/1889
Frank W. Thompson	6/18/1889 to 6/01/1893
William J. Little	6/01/1893 to 4/01/1900
Martin A. Eisele	4/01/1900 to 4/01/1907
W. Scott Smith	4/01/07 to 5/19/09
Harry H. Myers	7/01/09 to 8/01/13
Harry Hallock, Medical Director appointed by Myers (committed suicide on Reservation property)	9/10/09 to 5/19/13
Charles R. Trowbridge (Acting)	8/04/13 to 9/22/13
Charles R. Trowbridge	9/22/13 to 8/03/14
William P. Parks, M.D.	8/03/14 to 8/25/16

### HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK, UNDER DOI/NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

William P. Parks, M.D.	8/25/16 to 2/28/22
Clarence H. Waring, M.D.	3/01/22 to 3/23/24
Joseph Bolten, M.D.	3/23/24 to 7/16/29
Hugh de Valin, M.D.	7/16/29 to 12/12/30
George L. Collins, M.D.	12/12/30 to 1/15/32
Thomas J. Allen	1/15/32 to 5/24/36
Donald S. Libbey	5/24/36 to 1/01/39
Preston P. Patrow [or Patraw? Check]	1/01/39 to 3/15/43
John W. Emmert	4/15/43 to 9/01/44
Donald S. Libbey	9/01/44 to 6/08/46
Thomas Boles	6/08/46 to 2/01/51
George C. Bolton (Acting)	2/01/51 to 4/01/51
Donald S. Libbey (died of a heart attack)	4/01/51 to 9/25/59
H. Raymond Gregg	11/15/59 to 8/21/62
Robert H. Atkinson (killed in a traffic accident while on vacation)	9/02/62 to 6/06/63
Bernard T. Campbell	12/01/63 to 6/30/73
Bernard Goodman	7/22/73 to 6/19/77
Richard H. Maeder	8/14/77 to 4/18/81
Roger Giddings	6/28/81 to 9/2/2003
Josie Fernandez	3/22/2004 to present

## **National Park Service Directors**

Stephen T. Mather	05/16/1917-01/08/1929
Horace M. Albright	01/12/1929-08/09/1933
Arno B. Cammerer	08/10/1933-08/09/1940
Newton B. Drury	08/20/1940-03/31/1951
Arthur E. Demaray	04/01/1951-12/08/1951
Conrad L. Wirth	12/09/1951-01/07/1964
George B. Hartzog, Jr.	01/09/1964-12/31/1972
Ronald H. Walker	01/07/1973-01/03/1975
Gary Everhardt	01/13/1975-05/27/1977
William J. Whalen	07/05/1977-05/13/1980
Russell E. Dickenson	05/15/1980-03/03/1985
William Penn Mott, Jr.	05/17/1985-04/16/1989
James M. Ridenour	04/17/1989-01/20/1993
Roger G. Kennedy	06/01/1993-03/29/1997
Robert Stanton	08/04/1997-01/2001
Fran Mainella	

Note: In a cooperative arrangement with the Treasury Department in 1921, the United States Public Health Service provided medical officers to act as Hot Springs National Park superintendents 1 1924 through January, 1932, when Thomas Allen became the first superintendent to be assigned from the National Park Service.1 1932p.3